

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 canceled.

13. (New) A process for bleaching a cellulosic fibre material with a peroxide compound in an aqueous alkaline medium, comprising a bleaching step wherein

a) a polymer solution containing a first polymer (A) comprising a homopolymer of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or maleic acid, or a copolymer of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid with an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid, and a second polymer (B) comprising a poly- α -hydroxyacrylic acid or a salt thereof, said polymer solution having a pH of at most 7, is added to a cellulosic fibre material, and

b) thereafter adding a peroxide compound and an alkaline substance and carrying out the bleaching.

14. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein the bleaching is carried out in the absence of a nitrogen-containing chelating agent.

15. (New) The process of claim 13 or 14 wherein the bleaching is carried out in the absence of added calcium and/or magnesium ions.

16. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein the polymer solution has a pH of at most 6.

17. (New) The process of claim 16 wherein the polymer solution has a pH of at most 5.

18. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein the first polymer (A) comprises a raw polymer obtained from the homopolymerization of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or maleic acid or from the copolymerization of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid with an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid, said raw polymer having a pH of below 7.
19. (New) The process of claim 18, in which the raw polymer has a pH below 6.
20. (New) The process of claim 18, in which the raw polymer has a pH below 5.
21. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein the first polymer (A) has a molecular weight of at least 4000.
22. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein the first polymer (A) has a molecular weight of at least 10000.
23. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein the first polymer (A) has a molecular weight of at least 30000.
24. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein the second polymer (B) has a molecular weight of at least 5000.
25. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein the second polymer (B) has a molecular weight of at least 10000.
26. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein the second polymer (B) has a molecular weight of at least 15000.

27. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein the first polymer (A) comprises a copolymer of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid with maleic acid, wherein the molar ratio of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid to maleic acid is from 80:20 to 20:80.
28. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein the first polymer (A) comprises a copolymer of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid with maleic acid, wherein the molar ratio of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid to maleic acid is from 70:30 to 50:50.
29. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein the share of the second polymer (B) is from 1 to 50% by weight of the total amount of the first and second polymers (A) and (B).
30. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein the polymers (A) and (B) as active material are added in a total amount of 0.05 to 10 kg per ton of dry cellulosic fibre material.
32. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein the polymers (A) and (B) as active material are added in a total amount of 0.1 to 5 kg per ton of dry cellulosic fibre material.
33. (New) The process of claim 13 wherein the cellulosic fibre material comprises a chemical, mechanical, chemi-mechanical or deinked pulp.